

# Defense Criminal Investigative Service

The **Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS)**, established by the Secretary of Defense in 1981, is the investigative arm of the Office of the Inspector General, Department of Defense (DoD).

Under the Inspector General Act of 1978, DCIS has broad investigative authority throughout DoD.

DCIS Special Agents are civilian federal agents with full statutory law enforcement authority. They carry firearms, make arrests, execute search warrants, serve subpoenas, and testify in criminal, civil and administrative hearings.

DCIS' highest priority is the investigation of counterfeit material and unauthorized product substitution. When substandard or defective parts are put into weapon systems and other procured items and services used by the Armed Forces and other DoD agencies, there is a serious and

potentially dangerous impact on the military's war readiness capability.

DCIS investigates complex accounting frauds in the performance of high-dollar DoD contracts. These cases are labor intensive, long-term, and among the most difficult in fraud investigations. With the advent of Electronic Business and Electronic Data Interchange, new fraud cases are evolving in the electronic arena.

DCIS aggressively pursues the unlawful disposal of Defense related supplies and equipment. Major theft, public corruption, bribery, kickbacks, U.S. Customs and antitrust violations, and false statements are targeted to enhance the integrity and security of the property disposal system.

DCIS has a robust computer crimes unit that investigates intrusions into DoD computer systems. The DCIS computer crimes forensic unit is one of the most modern and advanced in Federal law enforcement.

DCIS conducts national health care fraud investigations involving TRICARE, the federally funded health benefits entitlement program that serves the health care needs of the family members of our Service members, retired military personnel and their dependents, and survivors of military personnel.

DCIS is responsible for investigating fraud in DoD's environmental programs, including contract fraud involving the removal, transport, and disposal of hazardous material.

Since September 11, 2001, DCIS has been actively involved in nationwide Joint Terrorism Task Forces and provides assistance to other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in the fight against terrorism.